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LB 543, 1309

haven't done a hard job...the hard work of accomplishing it, but I just can't support that and then support the tax increase. And when I say that, there's been a lot of discussion going on about how this is directly going to raise property taxes, and I don't think we have any illusion about the potential of that. Depending upon what local governments decide to do, that could happen. But let me take you back in time in the short years that I've been here, two years, there was an amendment offered, AM1567 to LB 543, and if you remember back to last year, AM5...or LB 543 was our mainline budget bill. And the mainline budget bill was really what we're working with now, and that's making revisions, making the cuts. And there was an amendment offered, I believe it was by the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and what it did was it struck \$60 million from property tax relief. Now, granted, that was set up one time, and if we had the money, great. But the reality was is that we cut 30 million this year and 30 million last year. And where do you think that went? That went directly on the property taxpayer of the state of Nebraska. And if any of you have gotten calls now and said why did my property tax go up for community colleges, it's because of this vote, and the vote was 30 to 4; 30 to 4 to vote to take \$60 million away from property tax relief from the citizens of the state of Nebraska; 30 to 4, 11 were present and not voting, 4 were excused. I was one of those four. As I mentioned in the earlier debate on this LB 1309, Senator Chambers made eloquent speech during this amendment that said if you vote against this you're a nobody. So we formed a "Nobody Club" as I mentioned. Then we proceeded on to another vote which, essentially, made that amendment our policy, and that was LB 543, and there were two of us that voted against that. And I received a lot of trouble for this but I voted against the budget last year along with Senator Chambers. And so as I look at what we have before us, and, you know, we're talking about a total cut proposed by the Governor, now, granted, some of these are actual cuts, but most of them are reductions in increases, but we are talking about a total reduction of \$74 million. With one vote last year, we had 30 votes to take \$60 million away from property tax relief in the state of Nebraska. I was one that opposed it. Senator Bruning was one that opposed it. Senator Jones opposed it, and Senator Foley opposed it. I have no illusions about the